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School Funds Essential

Administrators and trustees of the Torrance Unified School District once again have placed before the voters of the city a request to raise the legal limit for taxing property for school purposes.

Voters will be asked next Feb. 4 to decide whether the district should continue a 50-cent override rate now in effect and add another 40-cent rate to the total.

The reason for the request for additional funds is simply explained. Torrance's taxable wealth is growing at only half the rate of its school population. The dollar just doesn't spread far enough to pay for today's school expenses without the extra taxes.

Torrance's current general funds tax rate is \$2.90 for each \$100 of assessed valuation in the city. If the Feb. 4 election carries, the rate will be moved to \$3.30 per \$100. If the proposal fails, the tax rate will be dropped to \$2.40 per \$100.

Other school costs, including bond retirement, social security costs, community service charges, and teacher retirement is in addition to the general operating tax rate and can not be changed by the Feb. 4 vote.

It's never easy to ask voters to sock themselves a little more for taxes — and outside of the school system, nobody has to ask the voters how they feel about it. The political subdivisions from the city to the federal government just set the tax rate needed. Cities have a ceiling, but have many other sources of revenue not open to school districts.

The HERALD is convinced that the quality of education in Torrance will suffer if the additional funds are denied the school district. The tax on Torrance property must provide the bulk of the revenue to pay for teachers, textbooks, and custodians.

A 'YES' vote is essential on the school proposal next Feb. 4.

A Deepening Urgency

The Christmas season is past and the new year opens before us. And this is a good time to reflect on the ultimate fact that the world must find its salvation in the development, not of weapons, but in man's ability to grow in understanding and to value his fellow man.

In this rapidly shifting modern world, the best guide we have can still be found in the Christian concept as expressed by Jesus Christ when He was asked by a questioner to name the great commandment of the law He taught. As Matthew 22:37-39 tells us:

"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

As we begin this new year, it is well to reflect that these words challenge each of us to seek within ourselves the understanding to broaden our concept of self-interest until it embraces all mankind.

Barriers are before us as they have always been throughout the world's history, but we face an ever deepening urgency to surmount them. The selfish, acquisitive and combative elements woven into human nature are the greatest barriers we face. To achieve, man must be competitive; but to survive in this new and smaller world he must temper this competitive spirit with reason and the long view of belonging to one family with the common need to live together on one planet.

In beginning to write on the clean slate of the new year, we could not find a better guide post than the Lord's expression of the basic Christian commandment. If we are concerned with better understanding and using the power in His teachings, we will meet the trials that confuse our path to a better future. We have been given time to learn the illusive art of living in peace with each other—let us use it well.

Soon men will ride the thrusting fire of rockets far beyond our world. Looking back on Earth hanging in the darkness of space, perhaps they will be the first to find the way of the Lord's words and envision a future wherein we may all know as neighbors and truly love the whole of mankind.

Opinions of Others

A good many Americans have been somewhat less than ecstatic over the efforts of individuals and agencies in federal government to appease foreign nations in all sorts of ways as a means of assuring this country a pleasant "image."

This obeisance to image has not lessened. Just the other day the U.S. Information Agency tried to deny reports that it deleted pictures of a rabbi from a documentary film depicting the life of President Johnson, in order to avoid offending Arabs overseas. The denial was in turn denied by the film's producer. Why Arab sensibilities should be so important wasn't made clear. Just as it wasn't made clear last month why concern for Soviet sensibilities led the USIA to withhold for several days the information that President Kennedy's presumed assassin was a communist sympathizer.

If a rabbi played a significant role in the life of our President why should we excise history to hide that fact from a few touchy Arabs? Why mustn't we reveal facts that might discommodate a few commies? The kind of image the USIA seems determined to create for this nation is a sorry caricature of that created by the founding fathers, and maintained by the blood and courage, the ingenuity and generosity of millions of Americans who followed them.

(CALIFORNIA FEATURE SERVICE)

He's On His Way, At Last



ROYCE BRIER

Russ Look at 'Wild East' For Future Development

The Romans could expand in well-settled regions, many long civilized, and even the Gauls were barbarians, not savages. The British went to faraway places, and some of their subjects were in fact savages.

Only the Americans were offered such an empty empire as the Old West, for despite Custer, there really weren't many red men per square mile.

You wouldn't think so to look at television, though. Hordes of Indians, bison, cattlemen, marshals, bad men, harlots, in deference to our youth called dance hall girls, and in the end Texas oilmen, lunge across the screen, mean varmints all.

We have made a cut of them. They have changed our lives, not so much the reality of them as the reality of them as the gun-popping pictures of them now. Our youth slumps on the floor, swilling Pepsi, ruining its eyes, spellbound in the conviction this was the maddest human turmoil ever seen. Maybe it was.

Now this is a weird prelude to a news story out of the financial pages, datelined Moscow. Fate dealt the Russians a hand curiously like the American, in that they also had a West, but in their case an East-Siberia. The snuffy old Czars never knew it, and indeed it was always empty, a limitless land of snow and forests and mastodon bones.

It's still there, and no red men. But you've got to hand it to the Russians for rustling up a dream. That dream is to make small potatoes of the Americans. What do you need—grain, steel, oil. You must scrounge for the first two, but oil—there is power if you can get enough of it.

So this story, hardly more than an item, is that the Russians have been drilling at Irkutsk, which is to hell and gone north of Mongolia, when whoosh! they brought in a gusher high as a skyscraper. That was last year, and they have a field of gushers now.

Did oil change Texas? Yes,

and not always for the better, but don't tell the Murchisons. So the solemn economists are saying oil may change all Siberia, and all the Soviet Union. With bigger oil surpluses the Russians can get more exchange. They may run a pipeline to Vladivostok, at last delivering a commodity the Japanese need and can buy.

With oil they can build a chemical and petrochemical industry. They also have coal, probable iron ore, cheap hydroelectric power and always the timber. People will go there from Old Russia, industrial cities will be born, and those established will mushroom.

Will Soviet kids of the next generation see a cinema. How the East Was Won? Maybe. It won't be like ours. There will never be the fastest gun at the Angarak refinery. They won't mind. These are a grim, hardy, toiling people. It is a stunning accident of history that they may find the same opportunity we found 100 years ago. Better watch.

TALK OF THE WORLD

Buenos Aires

It's become standard procedure in Buenos Aires when you hail a taxi to ask the simple question, "Old meter rates or new?" The city's 18,000 taxis are undergoing a rate change that amounts to about a 25 per cent increase and the changeover of the meters is taking place at a snail's pace.

The public, understandably, is in no way eager to get into a taxi with the higher rates. But surprisingly enough, quite a few of the cabbies are fighting the new rates. And even those who do want the change have to wait weeks until the one firm authorized to make the changeover can accommodate them.

As things stand now, roughly half the city's taxis are on the new rates. The snarling arguments that take place at street corners are becoming commonplace. The guy who hailed the cab doesn't want to get in because the cab is on the new rates. And the cab driver, who never was at a loss for words, has come up with a whole new set of embarrassing and sometimes off-color synonyms for "cheapskate."

The hard-core group of cabbies who don't want to change the rates have some well-grounded fears. In recent years, there's been a boom in the business of the chauffeured car. This isn't as flashy or ritzy as it may seem at first glance. The cabbies in Buenos Aires always have

frowned on waiting with the meter going, and (more important) it's impossible to get a cab by telephone.

So, the remise came on the scene. There are any number of remise agencies which will send a car where the phone call tells them it's wanted. The cars bear no commercial identification; they have no meters; they charge by a complicated system of mileage covered and time consumed.

A trip of two miles, which involves waiting for an hour before taking the person back to the origination point, adds up to four miles and an hour and a half in time spent. This trip costs about \$1.50. To do the same thing on a hap-hazard basis, trying to catch the first passing cab both going and returning, would cost more than a dollar, including the tip, on the new rates—a little more than 75 cents on the old.

Cab drivers who don't want to raise their rates are afraid that if the spread between the taxi fares and the remise charges gets too close, it will only serve to put countless new remises on the streets of Buenos Aires.

For the person with a fat enough wallet, who regards the battle over rates as purely a matter of hair-splitting, there's a very positive effect. Taxis, which always have been hard to get in this city, suddenly are plentiful. There is virtually no problem in walking out on any street in the downtown sector of the

city and hailing a cab in less than a minute.

But for most Buenos Aires residents, wallets are mighty thin, and hair-splitting is a national sport.

Quote

WALTER N. MARKS, L.A., National Conference of Christians and Jews exec.—"What we can all do best for our country is to be the kind of men and women who stand for righteousness, justice and tolerance."

ED MOORE, Menlo Park, on "loyal opposition"—"The checks and balances system of our government includes the right and duty to oppose."

"A small town is where everybody knows what everybody else is doing, and they all buy the weekly paper to see how much the editor dares to print."—Bob Witt, Muncy (Pa.) Luminary.

"The meek will finally get the earth, but we'll wager the internal revenue boys will be there to collect the inheritance tax."—Lynn Denn, Linden (Calif.) Herald.

"Through the years man has been making enormous strides in producing weapons of war—from headbusters, to forbusters, to blockbusters, to city busters, and he's well on his way now to producing countrybusters."—Olin Miller, Thomaston (Ga.) Times.

AFTER HOURS By John Morley

Eye Witness--Paris Still Heart, Voice of Europe

PARIS — Perhaps I am prejudiced . . . for I first discovered the world sailing a toy boat in the children's pond of the Bois de Bologne.

Outside of the Pacific Palisades, California, where climate and scenery and friendliness shake hands in a tighter grip . . . and where I hope to sustain my permanent roots . . . there is only one Paris.

Not the Paris of De Gaulle, or the Common market, or the perfumeries . . . but the Paris of a little boy who first saw it from the end of a kite string. Only the size of the kite has changed in these past war-weary years.

Paris is the heart and voice of Europe. Charles de Gaulle made it so. London and Bonn may exert influence in Europe's affairs, but France has become the pivot of the new economic and political unit of the continent.

President Kennedy startled the world when he suggested, "We should study France's example to learn the secrets of economic and political growth."

We are following a course from Tunis across the Mediterranean to Berlin . . . and then through Eastern Europe into the Iron Curtain, Southern Russia to Turkey and Iraq.

This column will deal briefly with the over-all picture of Western Europe and its lifeblood . . . money and economic recovery.

Common Market statistics show that the United States and Canada are at the bottom of the list in economic recovery since World War II. This is verified by the charts of the European Co-operation and Development.

The rate of growth of U.S. gross national product in the 1952-1962 period, for instance, stands at about 1.8 per cent. Germany is at the head of the list with 4.4 per cent . . . France at 4.2 per cent . . . Switzerland, Italy, Netherlands, Greece at 4.1 per cent.

Thus far in 1963, Italy is ahead with 5.6 per cent gain . . . France 3.5 per cent . . . Germany dropped to 3 per cent on account of brutal winter weather.

This is the main reason we have opposed U.S. economic aid to Europe in these columns for years. European friends and economists I have talked with literally laugh up their sleeves at our gullibility.

Unfortunately it isn't funny. It's fantastic how we continue to pour millions into nations that have passed us in solvency and growth.

U.S. correspondents I meet speak and write contemptuously of President De Gaulle. Cartoonists in England and the U.S. lampoon his long frame and especially his long nose.

But De Gaulle's memory is as long as his nose. His present independent stand is his only safety valve.

He remembers the rebuffs of Roosevelt and Churchill during and after the war, when France was left out of the exclusive club of U.S., Russia, Britain, China.

The allies misjudged and mishandled Charles De Gaulle, from the cozy Churchill-Roosevelt Nassau chats, to Kennedy and MacMillan.

Since France was at the forefront of the Common market, De Gaulle believes he has the right to choose his terms.

The U.S. almost went to war with Russia over Cuba in October 1962, without discussions with De Gaulle . . . when on such an eventuality France was sure to be a prime nuclear target of Communist wrath.

There are "power plays" going on in Europe that Washington is either ignoring, or is too busy firing political steam for the 1964 campaign to seriously consider them.



"The only time money goes very far these days is when a quarter rolls under the bed."

I have not talked to any responsible official in Latin America, North Africa to here, who believes it is possible to co-exist with the present design of Communist Russia.

Adenauer and De Gaulle are the only allied leaders who consistently upheld this conclusion.

The present European "power plays" are not to isolate Europe from the U.S., but to protect it from Communist deception.

Europe wants a nuclear deterrent of its own after the tragic examples of World War I and II, when its survival depended on the U.S.

Europe wants to regain its pride and not turn to the U.S. for economic aid . . . as it should be.

Europe wants to face up to

the Kremlin as an equal with the U.S. . . . economically and defensively.

All these "power plays" may not appear realistic in view of the preponderance of nuclear power in the hands of the U.S. and Russia. But nuclear power costs money . . . and money has to be earned.

Europe in a nutshell is trying to get its economic power in order . . . giving it highest priority as a weapon for containing communism . . . and as a source of revenue for an independent nuclear deterrent.

The four per cent growth of Europe's GNP, as against the U.S. 1.9 per cent, gives reason for rejoicing that Europe, with our help, has made the grade.

Let's wish them continued luck . . . and save our money to save our own economy.

Our Man Hoppe

Can L.B.J. Count on Miss Lucy

—Art Hoppe

All our hearts go out these days, I'm sure to our Nation's First Family. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and their two daughters, Miss Lynda Bird and Miss Lucy Baines. Only, personally, my heart goes out most to Miss Lucy.

After all, while Mr. Johnson has a problem, at least he's married. Or vice versa. And the same can be said of Mrs. Johnson. As for Miss Lynda Bird, she had the foresight to get engaged last June. But what about Miss Lucy Baines? There she is, sweet 16, pretty as a picture and doomed to the awful fate of spinsterhood. For as long as her father remains in the White House.

Oh, it isn't that there aren't any beaux in her life. She seems to have a date at least once a week with a handsome young man and all evening they're inseparable. She, the young man and the two Secret Service men who follow her wherever she goes.

You can't imagine how awful this must be. You can't, that is, unless you're a pretty 16-year-old girl. But let's try.

SCENE: The door of the White House. A young man carrying a corsage, knocks. Miss Lucy, all sparkly eyed, opens it.

Young Man: Here I am, Lucy. Are you ready?

Miss Lucy: Oh, yes, we're ready.

Young Man: We?

Miss Lucy: Yes, this is Agent Smathers and this is Agent Caruthers. I'm sure we'll all have a wonderful time.

Young Man: I'm sure. Well anyway, here's some flowers I brought you.

Agent Smathers: Hold it, young man. Let's have a look at that package of what appears to be gardenias. We'll run them through the lab, Miss Lucy, and you can pick them up tomorrow or the next day. Now then, young man, where do we plan to go tonight?

Young Man: Well, I was thinking of taking Lucy to The Rock & Roll Pizza Palace where we could get a quiet table in the corner by the potted palms and . . .

Agent Caruthers: Fine. You radio ahead, Smathers, and get them to clear out all the other customers, run a security check on the pizza and turn the lights up bright. We don't want any shadowy spots. And now let's walk naturally out to the armored car. You on the left, young man, Smathers and I in the middle and Miss Lucy on the right.

Young Man (wistfully): Could we all hold hands?

Agent Caruthers: Here we are. Now Miss Lucy and I will sit in the back seat and you two in front. Standard precaution. And where do you plan to drive us to after dinner?

Young Man (glumly): Not where I was thinking of. Miss Lucy (hopefully): But we will have fun, won't we? I mean at least we're together.

Young Man: Sure Lucy. You know I just want to be near you. And I'm going to ask you for another date. As soon as I'm old enough to join the Secret Service.

Well, Mr. Johnson has a fine family and I'm sure he's counting on their loyal support for his re-election. Even Miss Lucy's. For after all, he'll say, even a teen-age girl knows her father's being President is more important than boys.

Maybe so. But I happen to have a teen-age daughter myself. And I doubt it.

Morning Report:

After almost endless bickering, Congress finally gave President Johnson the honor of becoming the biggest co-signer of all times. Russia can now buy \$250 million worth of wheat here on the installment plan any time.

Of course, he will not be personally responsible. But politically he will. If Moscow becomes what is called "slow pay" in credit circles, the President will have a hard time swinging his family in the next election.

But if she pays on the line, everybody will be happy. The Russians, who need the wheat. Our farmers, who need to get rid of it. And Mr. Johnson, who needs their votes in '64.

Abe Mellinkoff